

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable computer including a CPU operable in a maximum performance mode or in a low power consuming mode and supplied power from a fuel cell, the portable computer comprising:

- a primary fuel valve enabling the fuel cell to be supplied fuel from an external source;
- a signal sensor sensing an external fuel supplying signal from the primary fuel valve; and
- a controller controlling the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode based on the sensed external fuel supplying signal.

2. The portable computer according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary fuel valve enabling the fuel cell to be supplied the fuel from a fuel cartridge in the fuel cell, and wherein the signal sensor senses an internal fuel supplying signal from the secondary fuel valve, and the controller controls the CPU to operate in the low power consuming mode based on the sensed internal fuel supplying signal.

3. The portable computer according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a connector, connecting an AC/DC adapter to an external AC power supply;
- a DC/DC and charger, sensing that the external AC power supply is supplying and outputting an AC power supplying signal, and
- wherein the controller controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode if either the external fuel supplying signal or the AC power supplying signal is supplied.

4. The portable computer according to claim 2, further comprising:

- a connector, connecting an AC/DC adapter to an external AC power supply;
- a DC/DC and charger, sensing that the external AC power supply is supplying and outputting an AC power supplying signal, and
- wherein the controller controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode if either the external fuel supplying signal or the AC power supplying signal is supplied.

5. The portable computer according to claim 3, further comprising a signal sensor receiving the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal and outputting an external power input signal if at least one of the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal exists, and wherein the controller controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode based on the external power input signal.

6. A portable computer, comprising:
a primary fuel valve controlling a fuel supply from an external source to a fuel cell;
a signal sensor sensing an external fuel supplying signal from the primary fuel valve; and
a controller controlling a CPU to operate in a maximum performance mode based on the sensed external fuel supplying signal.

7. The portable computer according to claim 6, further comprising a secondary fuel valve controlling a fuel supply from a fuel cartridge in the fuel cell, and
wherein the signal sensor senses an internal fuel supplying signal from the secondary fuel valve, and the controller controls the CPU to operate in a low power consuming mode based on the sensed internal fuel supplying signal.

8. The portable computer according to claim 6, further comprising:
a connector, connecting an AC/DC adapter to an external AC power supply;
a DC/DC and charger, sensing that the external AC power supply is supplying and outputting an AC power supplying signal, and
wherein the controller, controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode if either the external fuel supplying signal or the AC power supplying signal is supplied.

9. The portable computer according to claim 7, further comprising:
a connector, connecting an AC/DC adapter to an external AC power supply;
a DC/DC and charger, sensing that the external AC power supply is supplying and outputting an AC power supplying signal, and
wherein the controller, controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode if either the external fuel supplying signal or the AC power supplying signal is supplied.

10. The portable computer according to claim 8, further comprising:

a signal sensor receiving the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal and outputting an external power input signal if at least one of the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal is supplied, and wherein the controller controls the CPU to be operated in the maximum performance mode on the external power input signal.

11. A portable computer, comprising:
 - a primary fuel valve controlling a fuel supply from an external source to a fuel cell;
 - a secondary fuel valve controlling a fuel supply from a fuel cartridge in the fuel cell;
 - a signal sensor sensing an external fuel supplying signal from the primary fuel valve or an internal fuel supplying signal from the secondary fuel valve; and
 - a controller controlling a CPU to operate in a maximum performance mode or a low power consuming mode based on the internal or external sensed fuel supplying signal.
12. The portable computer according to claim 11, further comprising:
 - a connector, connecting an AC/DC adapter to an external AC power supply;
 - a DC/DC and charger, sensing that the external AC power supply is supplying and outputting an AC power supplying signal,
 - wherein the controller controls the CPU to operate in the maximum performance mode if either the external fuel supplying signal or the AC power supplying signal is supplied.

13. The portable computer according to claim 12, further comprising:
 - a signal sensor receiving the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal and outputting an external power input signal if at least one of the external fuel supplying signal and the AC power supplying signal exists, and wherein the controller controls the CPU to be operated in the maximum performance mode based on the external power input signal.

14. The portable computer according to claim 11, wherein if the controller receives the external fuel supplying signal, the amount of power supplied to the computer is larger and the portable computer operates in the maximum performance mode.

15. The portable computer according to claim 11, wherein if the controller receives the internal fuel supplying signal, the amount of power supplied to the computer is limited and the portable computer operates in the lower power consuming mode.

16. A method of controlling an operation of a portable computer, comprising:
sensing an external fuel supplying signal from a primary fuel valve or sensing an internal fuel supplying signal from a secondary fuel valve; and
controlling the portable computer to operate in a maximum performance mode or in a low power consuming mode based on the sensed external fuel supplying signal or on the sensed internal fuel supplying signal.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein a DC/DC and charger, sense if an external AC power supply is supplying power to the portable computer and outputs an AC power supplying signal,
wherein the portable computer operates in the maximum performance mode if either an external fuel supplying signal or an AC power supplying signal is supplied.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein an operation mode of a CPU and a peripheral device of the portable computer, depends on whether the portable computer is supplied fuel from a fuel cartridge in a fuel cell, or from an external fuel tank, to increase use time of the fuel cell.